

## **DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD (DAB) I**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, February 6, 2006**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Atwater Community Center, 2755 E. 19<sup>th</sup>, Wichita, Kansas 67214**

#### **Members Present**

Council Member Carl Brewer  
Treatha Brown-Foster  
Lois Daniels  
Gerald Domitrovic  
Hayley Domitrovic\*  
Lori Lawrence  
Debra K. Miller Stevens  
Debby Moore  
Steve Roberts  
Inga Taylor\*  
James Thompson  
LaVonta Williams

#### **Members Absent**

Michael Ross\*  
Sharon Myers  
Shontina Pickens\*

#### **Guests**

Patricia Fields, 1910 E. 22nd  
Beverly Domitrovic, Schweiter NA  
Erma Markham, 4229 Charron  
Dr. Carla Lee, 1357 N.  
Dr. Glen Dey  
Paula Givens, 1228 N. Mathewson  
Lula Balance, 926 N. Wabash  
John Stevens, 3125 E. Boston  
Carl Ligon, 1736 NE Parkway  
Janice Rich, 619 Greenwood  
Beverly Domitrovic, 1219

#### **\*Alternates**

#### **City of Wichita Staff Present**

Virdena Gilkey, Neighborhood Assistant  
Lt. Doug Nolte, WPD  
Officer Lenny Rose, WPD

### **Order of Business**

#### **Call to Order**

**Council Member Carl Brewer** called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and welcomed the guests.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

**Moore (Thompson)** made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried 9-0.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

**Dr. Glen Dey** asked to speak on the Off Agenda Item for the McAdams Neighborhood Association signage for their neighborhood park. **Dr. Carla Lee** asked to address the board concerning the Piatt Park Memorial. **Moore (Daniels)** made a motion to approve the agenda as revised. Motion carried 9-0.

### **Public Agenda**

#### **1. NUSA Conference 2006**

**Erma Markham, NUSA/WIN Board Member**, announced the upcoming NUSA conference sponsored by the Neighborhood USA, the largest not for profit organization that works for neighborhoods. The May 2006 conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri. This is an annual conference with participants from Canada, Spain, Germany, and Japan. The average attendance is 1200 participants.

Ms. Markham further stated that she is an elected board member of NUSA and feels it would be a great opportunity to host the conference in Wichita. In reviewing the Visioneering Wichita goals, the NUSA Conference would address three of those goals. Ms. Markham would like for the City of Wichita to guarantee two buses and the neighborhood associations to guarantee five people each. The next available date to host the conference in Wichita is 2010.

*(Ms. Markham's response is in italics)*

**Brown Foster** asked when is the registration deadline? *March 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline. Participants can register at [www.NUSA.org](http://www.NUSA.org).* **Thompson** asked what kind of commitment from residents in Wichita would be needed and how would be responsible for the workshops? *The commitment would come from the neighborhood organizations and not only the residents. On Friday afternoon, the neighborhood associations would be responsible for tours and lunch. The tour participants are to be transported by City buses. The workshops would be conducted by a partnership between the City and NUSA.* **Lawrence** asked what role does WIN have in this conference? *WIN has not taken a role in this.* **Brewer** responded that this would be similar if the City of Wichita would compete to host a national conference. Hotel rooms must be secured and all logistics must be taken care of before the convention. We would send staff from the City of Wichita, Convention and Visitors Bureau, etc. to make the presentation. *I will provide registration information and bus cost when we visit. The next available date for Wichita to host the conference is 2010.*

**The board received and filed the report.**

**2. Off-agenda items**

- a. **Dr. Glen Dey, DAB 1 Park Board Representative**, reported the following: The McAdams Neighborhood Association has worked diligently to revitalize their area and have received numerous awards for their accomplishments. The City of Wichita purchased land on 11<sup>th</sup> and Indiana for a pocket park, which is part of the revitalization efforts. The former owner requested that the park be named for his family as the Walters Memorial Park. Because the land had been purchased and not donated, the Park Board met and decided not to support the request.

**Paula Given, McAdams NA President**, thanked Dr. Dey for all of his hard work. She stated that the association held several meetings and decided to name the park the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Park. Naming the park after him maintains the theme of the neighborhood, as he was a great contributor to literary history. There will be a dedication of the park in April or May of this year.

*(Dr. Dey's response is in italics)*

**Brown Foster** asked if the former owner requested that they name the park after him? *The family asked that the Walter family be named on the park marker.* **Daniels** asked if the poem on the last page of information provided to the board would be on the marker? It is very beautiful and inspirational. *We are considering that. Paula Givens added that the association agrees with Dr. Dey and feels that the poem captures the outdoors. The playground will have state of the art equipment and will be the first of its kind in Wichita.* **Brewer** asked if they wanted a recommendation from the board? *Dr. Dey responded in the affirmative.*

**Stevens (Williams)** made a motion to accept the proposal and to name the pocket park after Paul Lawrence Dunbar. Motion carried 9-0.

- b. **Dr. Carla Lee, Piatt Park Memorial Committee**, reported that she is representing Representative Oletha Faust-Goudeau. The Piatt Park Memorial groundbreaking, held on January 16<sup>th</sup>, was a great success. She thanked Council Member Brewer for his support and speech at the event. Dr. Lee acknowledged Mayor Mayans, Governor Sebelius, and the Air Force Wing Unit and thanked them for their support as well. For information on the memorial, citizens can go to [www.piattparkmonument.com](http://www.piattparkmonument.com). The monument is envisioned as an archway.

*(Dr. Lee's response is in italics)*

**Domitrovic** commented that there was talk previously about the amount of money needed for this project. Is that yet the same and do we need that money before renovation? *Our goal is to raise \$100,000. We do not need that amount before renovation begins.* **Thompson** inquired about the dollar amount for purchasing a brick and if there was a layout plan developed. *I am not sure what that amount will be at this time. We will be getting a road map or drawing to determine the politically correct way to lay the bricks.* **Taylor** stated that people would want to see their names on the brick during the installation process. She asked if there was a plan in place for that? *We will have a process after a committee meeting. Our goal is to have funds donated to close down the project as complete.* **Williams** stated that DAB 1 should be the initial contributor of \$100 for a brick. **Daniels** commented that the neighborhood associations are a key piece. Each member is part of his or her own association as well. **Brewer** interjected that the status of the City is that it is illegal to give money to certain projects. We now assess what we can do and what the applicant can do. In the past, the City has given money for projects that never occurred. As a result, we have a strict policy as to how funding is spent. The entire Council will vote on and watch all projects. With this project, no one knows for sure what the total dollar figure is. *The original goal was \$40,000 and has changed to \$100,000 to secure the land.* **Brewer** added that there is also the 21<sup>st</sup> Street signage that has to be addressed as well. *We can handle the signage.*

### **Staff Reports**

#### **3. Police Report**

- **Officer Lenny Rose** reported the following: a) January was a busy month on special burglary assignments; b) Met in October 2005 to deal with chronic homelessness. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, Inter-Faith Ministries will meet on the homeless crisis; c) crime was down in the downtown area during the Christmas season. Also, starting to see the Water Walk building; d) we are starting to see more gangs congregating. This weekend, the Gang Unit will meet to discuss strategies.

*(Officer Rose's response is in italics)*

**Moore** asked if the skate park is still used harmoniously? *Yes it is. We had a complaint, but found out it was another part of town.* **Brewer** asked if additional security is required? *We have a lot of security. Security is inside and not outside. We are currently dealing with loitering.* **Domitrovic (Hayley)** asked if the police have been involved in the Water Walk? *We are addressing a string of robberies in the area. Perimeters have been set up to identify the property that belongs in the area.*

- **Lt. Nolte, Patrol North Community Police Supervisor**, provided an update to the board on the following: a) the last two weeks, he rode nights with the SCAT Team. WPD realizes gang members are mobile with each other. Most gang members have restrictions and a curfew; b) police are pushing sentencing guidelines for reinstatement of licenses; c) increase in metal scrap business. There is a significant amount in aluminum cost. Investigations/Field Services is working to catch these people and is encouraging business owners to make a report; d) finished 2005 with the following: zero gang homicides, however, there was a dramatic rise in the number of drive-bys.

The Weed and Seed update: a) federally funded program where Law enforcement weeds out the bad element and seed in the good elements; b) WPD was funded \$70,000 for weeding efforts and \$42,000 in overtime for extra officers; c) Officer Jones is working with the Pets in Crisis Program, 68 hours burglary patrol, and 120 hours prostitution. Noticed an

increase in prostitution in the areas of Central, 13<sup>th</sup> and Hydraulic. Planning to address: 1) 12,000 on directed patrols; 2) racial profiling; 3) putting more officers on the streets; 4) monitoring of bike parks; 5) warrant sweeps; 6) Field Services reports; 7) Mounted patrols funding; and 7) impact on neighborhood associations.

Lt. Nolte also addressed 44 Beat, which is an area largely ignored, high in rental properties, high return of parolees, and an upcoming grocery store. Officer Courtney Pierce is putting together a survey to canvass the entire area to ascertain the needs of the community. Wichita Independent Neighborhood (WIN) will provide volunteers.

*(Lt. Nolte's response is in italics)*

**Brown Foster** asked if the Gang Coalition will include African American ministers, addressed concerns about the Fairmount area, and voiced support for police efforts in the neighborhoods concerning profiling recommendations. *We do not know the specific involvement. Historically, the Ministerial League is very supportive. In the Fairmount area, we are seeing more overt things such as gang graffiti. If you see gang graffiti, notify WPD. We are holding more meetings with SRO's and are dealing with young gang members that are hard to identify. However, we are in a better position than we were last year. Call me at 303-8065 if you have additional questions or concerns.*

The board received and filed.

#### Unfinished Business

No items submitted.

#### New Business

#### 4. 21<sup>st</sup> St. Overpass Advisory Board Appointment

**Gary Janzen, Chief Engineer**, presented information concerning the 21<sup>st</sup> Street railroad overpass, between Broadway and the I-135 Freeway project. In 2005, the City Council approved an agreement with Parsons Brinckerhoff, consultant engineers to design a plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> North Corridor Revitalization Plan. This plan will cover 21<sup>st</sup> Street, except for the area east of Broadway.

Further, the design will look to decrease traffic flow, increase passage, maintain access to businesses, and follow right of way requirements. Currently the cost is \$40 to \$50 million. As the project administrator, the Department of Public Works is forming a Design Advisory Board, with the request that Districts I & VI Advisory Boards each appoint a representative to the design group. The board will meet the first Thursdays of each month from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. March 5<sup>th</sup> will be the first meeting held at the Evergreen Branch Library. Public Works is asked the board to appoint a member to the committee. Mr. Janzen stated that there are three neighborhood associations in the area: Matlock Heights, Power, and Northeast Millair. All will be invited to participate.

*(Gary Janzen's response is in italics)*

**Brown Foster** commented that Dorothy Nave, President of Northeast Millair Neighborhood Association, has been ill and it is a good chance she will not be able to attend. **Brewer** asked the board members who would be interested in participating on the committee?

After a brief discussion, **Daniels (Moore)** nominated **James Thompson** to serve on the 21<sup>st</sup> Street Overpass Advisory Board. Motion carried 9-0.

**Brown Foster** remarked that some of the advisory board meetings should be held at Atwater Neighborhood City Hall. *I will take that suggestion back to department.*

### **Board Agenda**

#### **5. Updates, Issues, and Reports**

- **Brewer** reported the following: a) the Amnesty Program, will be held February 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., City Hall, 455 North Main. Three courts will be shutdown to service those needing to go to court due to warrants; b) the District 1 Coalition Breakfast was well attended. Deputy Chief Stolz and Kay Johnson from Environmental Health addressed concerns. There was also representatives from the Center for Health and Wellness and the 13<sup>th</sup> Street widening project; c) the City is initiating a new StopBlight program for commercial buildings. The City will need to change an ordinance for this program. Also, a proposal has been presented for the City to do the work and put it on the taxes of those who fail to comply in the designated timeframe; d) the Rails to Trails program is being considered by the City Council. The council has asked the Park Department to devise a comprehensive park plan to address the development of these trails. **Dr. Dey** remarked that the Park Board has held one meeting and it could take as long as seven months to a year, depending on which plan is selected. Wichita will create a model similar to the one in Seattle, Washington. The board is working on a document that will not be put on the shelf.
- **Stevens** reported that the South Central Steering Committee's plan will be presented February 13<sup>th</sup> at the South Central Business Alliance Meeting, Bethany UMC, 11:30 a.m. The plan will also be presented at 6:00 p.m. that same night.

**The board received and filed.**

With no further business, **Domitrovic (Williams)** made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 9-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virdena Gilkey  
Neighborhood Assistant